

SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION 469
By Rochelle

A RESOLUTION to honor the memory of Elder R. D. Brooks, Jr.,
of Carthage.

WHEREAS, it was with great sadness and a profound sense of loss that the members of this General Assembly and the citizens of our state learned of the death of Elder R. D. Brooks of the North Carthage Missionary Baptist Church; and

WHEREAS, throughout his distinguished life, Elder Brooks sought to fulfill the will and purpose of Divine love by devoting himself to the pastorate; and

WHEREAS, born the son of the late Richard Donoho Brooks, Sr., and Docia Ann Beasley Brooks, Richard Donoho Brooks, Jr., was raised in the Cato community; he attended Cato Elementary School and graduated in 1937 from Trousdale County High School, where he will forever be remembered for his athletic abilities; and

WHEREAS, Elder Brooks served with great bravery and ability in the U.S. Army during World War II; in the European Theatre, he performed his duties with the utmost skill, dedication and professionalism and was discharged with the rank of Tech. Sergeant; and

WHEREAS, Elder Brooks preached his first sermon in September of 1952 to an audience of over 500 at Carthage First Baptist Church; he often reflected on that first, very important message: "Hannah: Who Was She? The Mother of the Great Prophet Samuel."; and

WHEREAS, Elder Brooks was also ordained in September of 1952 at Peytons Creek Baptist Church where he blessed the congregation with his sage counsel and strong Biblical preaching for seven years; and

WHEREAS, a minister of uncompromising love, stalwart devotion and deep religious conviction, Elder Brooks felt called to found the East Carthage Missionary Baptist Church in 1960, where he pastored from 1961 until 1974; and

WHEREAS, Elder Brooks was later instrumental in the erection of yet another church, North Gordonsville Missionary Baptist Church, where he served until his recent death; and

WHEREAS, also an astute businessman, Elder Brooks founded the Peoples Stockyard in Cookeville, owned the Sparta Stockyard, organized the Cumberland Feeder Pig Sale and the Cumberland Feeder Calf Sale and was the former owner of the Smith County Commission Co. in Carthage; and

WHEREAS, for fifty-six years, Elder Brooks enjoyed the loving companionship of his devoted wife, the former Mary Elizabeth Farley, who survives him; Elder Brooks was the proud father of three children, Carthage Attorney Richard M. Brooks of Tanglewood, Carthage City Councilman Phillip Day Brooks, and Hogans Creek Missionary Baptist Church Pastor Elder Stephen Farley Brooks; three granddaughters, and one great-granddaughter; and

WHEREAS, although he has relinquished this life for a far greater existence, the legacy Elder Brooks leaves behind will be long remembered and treasured by many for years to come; and

WHEREAS, it is appropriate that this legislative body pause in its deliberations to remember the exemplary life of this fine Tennessean; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE NINETY-NINTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES CONCURRING, That we honor the memory of Elder R. D. Brooks, Jr., of Carthage, remembering with admiration his strong character and service to the citizens of our great state.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That we express our deepest sympathy to the family and friends of Elder Brooks.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That an appropriate copy of this resolution be prepared for presentation with this final clause omitted from such copy.